

As a consumer and citizen I have a grave concern about the proposed Broadcast Flag. I consider it important that technology gives me the ability to record a television program and watch it later. I lead a very busy life and cannot count on being able to watch television at any regular weekly time. I have three televisions in my home but only one is hooked up to cable. It is important for me to be able to play a tape I make on one on another television. The fair use right to do this has existed for many years and I will not give it up easily.

The goal of media companies to lock up content will be a long term disaster for the american economy. We need the sort of vibrant and innovative country we have long had. The broadcast flag and other similar schemes to take away freedom from american consumers are ill advised. More than 20 years ago the movie industry claimed the VCR was going to destroy it. That was nonsense. The current fears are just as ridiculous. The only certainty is that if we lock in current technology and eliminate innovation our children will have a bleak future. I am a university professor and research scientist and I think I have good insights into what drives technology and science. Regulations that prevent innovation are the last thing we need.

In summary, I urge you not to regulate technology and instead let the market work.